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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for controlling access to user interface elements in a point-of-sale system computer program having a plurality of different user interface elements, said processthe method comprising the steps of:

operating the point-of-sale system in a security setup mode of operation by:

accessing the plurality of user interface elements, wherein some of the user interface elements include a set of modifiable access properties that indicate a level of access needed to access that user interface element;

(a)providing a means to establishing the an access profile of the currentfor each user of a computer-programthe point-of-sale system, the access profile indicates the level of access of and authorizing administrative access to a user interface elements security-set-up and control means determined by that the each current-user's is allowed to access profile; and

(b)providing a means to establish the existence of each user interface element and its access properties

(c)providing a means to select each user interface element;

(d)providing means to display the access properties of each user interface element;

(e)providing a means to change the access properties of each user interface element;

(f)saving the changed access properties in a database means; and

(g)returning said computer program to normal mode of operation.

controlling each user interface element displayed on the point-of-sale system during a normal mode of operation by comparing the level of access indicated in the access profile of a user of the point-of-sale system with the level of access of each user interface element that is to be displayed.

2. (currently amended) A process as definedThe computer-implemented method of-in claim 1, further comprising:wherein indexing the said access profile of the currentfor each user of the

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~~computer program~~point-of-sale system is indexed with the ~~said~~corresponding access properties for each said user interface element ~~on the~~to be displayed ~~program window~~on the point of sale system.~~;~~

3. (currently amended) ~~A process as defined in~~The computer-implemented method of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~wherein controlling ~~the display of~~each ~~said~~user interface element displayed on the point of sale system comprises ~~contained in the said program window by comparing the said access profile of each user with the said access properties of each user interface element; and~~ displaying only those user interface elements ~~in the program window~~that have access ~~property~~ies levels equal to or less than the level of access indicated in the access profile of the ~~said current~~ user.

4. (currently amended) ~~A process as defined in~~The computer implemented method of claim 3 further comprising:~~ blanking, hiding, obscuring, or otherwise limiting data or functionality of all~~ user interface elements ~~in the~~displayed ~~program window~~on the point-of-sale system whose levels of access properties are greater than the levels of access indicated in the access profile of the ~~said current~~user.

~~WHEREBY, an administrator can set the security level access profile of all users of the computer program and interactively assign security level access properties to individual user interface elements; and therefore not be limited by any previously determined and rigid interface access control schemes of the display windows' properties assigned by the software programmer at the time of creation of the software.~~

~~WHEREBY, an administrator can interactively set access properties to all available user interface elements on any particular window and in any manner or method the~~

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administrator deems proper for their particular use or application of the software
program; thus giving greater control and ease of use to the administrators and
users of the computer program.

5. (currently amended) A <u>point-of-sale</u> system ~~for~~ <u>that</u> controls~~ling~~ access to user interface
elements, <u>the point-of-sale system</u> ~~in a computer program having a plurality of different user
interface elements,~~ comprising:

    (a) ~~a main computer program means;~~

    (b) ~~a user profile management means;~~

    (c) ~~a user interface element security setup and control means;~~

    (d) ~~a user interface element properties means; and~~

    (e) ~~a user interface element display management means.~~

<u>an access control module configured to manage access of a plurality of user interface
elements for each user of the point of sale system, the access control module
comprising:</u>

<u>an access management module configured to allow an authorized administrator to
set up access levels for user interface elements of the point-of-sale system;</u>

<u>an access control table configured to store access profiles for each user of the
point-of-sale system as set up by the authorized administrator, each access
profile indicates the level of access of user interface elements that each
user is allowed to access; and</u>

<u>a display management module configured to instruct the point-of-sale system
which user interface elements should be rendered by comparing the access
levels of each user interface element to the access profile of a user.</u>

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6. (currently amended) ~~A main computer program means as claimed in~~ The point-of-sale system of claim 5, further ~~including~~ comprising a graphical user interface that contains one or more user interface elements ~~that represent data, function, or processes of the main computer program~~.

7. (canceled).

8. (currently amended) ~~A user interface element security setup and control means as claimed in~~ The point-of-sale system of claim 5, ~~further comprising a means to establish the existence of each user interface element in said main computer program means and display the said access properties of each user interface element; and said access properties may~~ wherein access levels of the user interface elements and the access profile of each user can be interactively changed by the authorized administrative~~or user~~.

9. (currently amended) ~~A user interface element properties means as claimed in~~ The point-of-sale system of claim 5, ~~further including a means to store said access properties of said user interface elements in a database means; and such data base means~~ wherein each access profile stored in the access control table is indexed according to ~~the properties~~ access levels of the user interface elements.

10. (currently amended) ~~A user interface element display management means as claimed in~~ The point-of-sale system of claim 5, ~~further including a means to limit and restrict access of individual user interface elements in the program window by comparing the current user's established access profile with the stored access properties of each user interface element on the displayed window, both contained in said database means; and~~ wherein the display management module displays~~ing~~ only those user interface elements ~~in the program window~~ that have access ~~properties~~ levels equal to or less than the access levels of the access profile of the ~~said current~~ user.

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11. (currently amended) A user interface element display management means as claimed in~~in~~ the point-of-sale system of claim 10, ~~further including a means~~ to ~~blank,~~wherein the display management module hides~~, obscure or other wise limit all~~ user interface elements in the ~~program window~~point-of-sale system where access to ~~the~~levels of user interface elements ~~is denied~~are greater than the access levels indicated in the access profile of the user.

~~WHEREBY, an administrator can se the seouirty level access properties of all users of the coputer program and interactivley assign securtiy level access properties to individual user interface elements; and therfore not be limited by an previoulsy determined and rigid interface access control schemes of the display windows' properties assigned by the software programmer at the time of creation of the software.~~

~~WHEREBY, an administrator can interactively set access properties to all available user interface elements on any particular window and in any manner or method the administrator deems proper for their particular window and in any manner or method the administrator deems proper for their particular use or application of the software program; thus giving greater control and ease of use to the administrators and users of the computer program.~~

12. (new) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein accessing the plurality of user interface elements during operation of the point-of-sale system in a security setup mode comprises accessing user interface elements that are highlighted, wherein highlighted user interface elements are those user interface elements that include access properties that can be assigned a level of access.

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13. (new) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the access properties of a select user interface element comprise:

a form name that identifies the name of the display window where the select user interface element is located;

a control name that identifies the name of the select user interface element;

a form class that identifies the type of form; and

an access level that identifies the level of access of the select user interface element.

14. (new) The computer-implemented method of claim 13, wherein the access level that identifies the level of access of the select user interface element further includes a disable read button and a disable change button, wherein if the disable read button is selected then the select user interface element will be hidden from the user and if the disable change button is selected then the select user interface element will be viewable to the user but can not be modified.